

May 3rd is National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Why is this important?

- Despite recent declines; about 34% of young women in the U.S. get pregnant at least once by age 20. In other words, 820,000 young women have lives that are changed by an unintended pregnancy. That is far too many, especially when you consider that the lives and dreams of young men are also affected.
- The U.S. teen pregnancy and birth rates are nearly double Great Britain's, at least four times the rates for France and Germany and more than ten times the rate for Japan.
- Each year the federal government spends about \$7 billion to help families that began with a teenage birth.
- For every dollar spent on family planning services, the states save \$3.00 in pregnancy-related costs.
- Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school. Only 1.5% earn a college degree by age 30.
- Over half of the graduation high school seniors will have had sex at least once.
- **Fact:** Teens 15 and older who use drugs are five times more likely to have sex than are those teens who do not use drugs. More than 1/3 of sexually active teens and young adults report that alcohol or drug use has influenced a decision to do something sexual.
- **Fact:** 66% of teens think that sex should only occur in a long-term, committed relationship.
- **Fact:** only 1/2 of parents of teens who are sexually experienced are aware that their sons and daughters have started having sex.
- **Fact:** Two out of three teens who have sex by age 18 say they wish they'd waited longer.
- **Fact:** About 80% of teens 12-19 say they feel pressure to have sex. Everyone is not doing it – in fact, about half of high school-aged teens are having sex and half aren't. Sixty-five percent of teens say it would be much easier to delay sex if other teens spoke positively about not having sex.
- **Fact:** One in seven teens has had sex by age 15. When partners are two or more years apart, chances are higher that the sex is unwanted and/or unprotected.
- **Fact:** Teens who have sex without using protection have an 85% chance of pregnancy within one year.

Take the teen pregnancy prevention survey on May 3rd:

www.teenpregnancy.org/national